1. (Amended) A method for ensuring the operation of signaling channels in a V5 interface between a local exchange and an access node, the interface comprising:

reconfiguring V5 interface data in an interface composition having at least two signaling channels; and

ensuring active operation of protected signaling channels when starting a V5 interface, wherein the protected signaling channels are [stated] started on at least one of signaling channels defined in a new interface composition, and on signaling channels to which the protected signaling channels were transferred in a protection switch-over.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, a minor typographical error which had been erroneously introduced into claim 1 in the Preliminary Amendment of August 21, 2003, is corrected.

Timely examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any fees due with respect to the filing of this paper, please charge Counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas H. Goldhush
Registration No. 33,125

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
8000 Towers Crescent Drive, 14th Floor
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

DHG:scc

Enclosure: Marked-up Copy of Amended Claim

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIM
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/645,345

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